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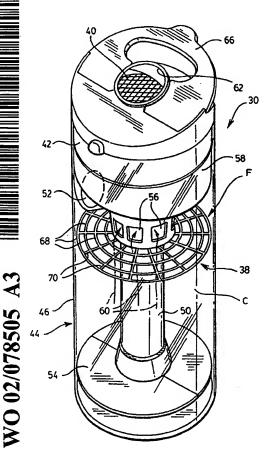
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## (54) Title: VACUUM CLEANER INCLUDING A CYCLONE SEPARATOR



(57) Abstract: A vacuum cleaner (20) that includes a cyclone separator (38) has a coarse filter (F) disposed in the path of air flowing towards the outlet of the cyclone separator, for holding back hair that would otherwise tend to clog the vacuum cleaner (20), while minimizing impedance to air flow. In a preferred embodiment, the coarse filter (F) comprises a disc-shaped lattice structure of barrier elements (68) that are arranged to "catch" the animal hair.



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According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

#### B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	WO 99 22874 A (B.H.R.GROUPLTD.) 14 May 1999 (1999-05-14) column 3, line 3 -column 6, line 20;	1,2,4,8, 11,13-15
A	claims 1,3,6; figures 1,2,5-8	3,9
Y	EP 0 489 565 A (NOTETRY LTD) 10 June 1992 (1992-06-10) column 3, line 6 -column 11, line 9; figures 1,2,2B,7,91-3	1,2,4,8, 11,13-15
A	US 4 643 748 A (DYSON,J.) 17 February 1987 (1987-02-17) cited in the application column 1, line 64 -column 4, line 34; claims 1,15; figures 1,3	1,8,10

Y Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.	Patent family members are listed in annex.
Special categories of cited documents:  A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  E earlier document but published on or after the international filling date  L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)  O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  P document published prior to the international filling date but later than the priority date claimed	<ul> <li>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but clied to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention.</li> <li>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone.</li> <li>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</li> <li>"&amp;" document member of the same patent family</li> </ul>
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Name and mailing address of the ISA  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  MUNZER, E

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